



SPECIAL SECTION!

Exploring Hartford's West End Neighborhood, pages 2 & 3

Sponsored by the West End Civic Association

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association News & Views, pages 4-5

The Hartford News

April 2-8, 2020



**For Official Information on the Coronavirus go to:
portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus**

City Takes Additional Steps to Battle Growing Coronavirus Crisis

With the world epicenter of the Coronavirus pandemic just 116 miles away in New York City, Hartford is taking additional measures to deal with the dramatic increase in cases of the disease that is expected to hit the city over the next few weeks.

In New York City, there have been 1,096 deaths and 43,119 confirmed Coronavirus cases as of Tuesday. In Connecticut, approximately 608 patients have been hospitalized with the virus and 69 people have died as of Tuesday, according to Governor Ned Lamont. More than 15,600 tests have been conducted in Connecticut at both state and private laboratories.

On Monday, March 30, Mayor Luke Bronin and School Superintendent Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez held a press conference to announce new steps the city is taking to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus and support healthcare workers, first responders and other essential employees.

"We're continuing to do everything possible to slow the spread of coronavirus and support our employees who are doing vital work serving our community every day," said Bronin. "We have worked quickly with many partners to dramatically reduce density in our [homeless] shelter system, we're working to give first responders and others housing options to minimize risk to their families, and we will soon begin providing childcare to first responders, hospital workers, and hopefully grocery store employees as well."

Next week, Hartford, in partnership with the State Office of Early Childhood, will start providing childcare services for essential hospital workers at Hartford Hospital and Connecticut Children's Medical Center at the Hyland Early Learning Center on New Britain Avenue. The City will also open the Asylum Hill Early Learning Center in Asylum Hill Congregational Church to provide childcare for some essential city employees. In addition, the City is hoping to provide childcare for grocery store workers who need it. No early learning center rooms will have more than ten children.

Hartford is also working with the University of Hartford to arrange dormitory-style housing for first responders and other essential employees who may work directly or indirectly with individuals that may be infected with the Coronavirus and who want to stay away from their own homes to lessen the chance of passing the disease to their families.

Hartford officials are also working to reduce Coronavirus risks among the city's large homeless population. 75 homeless

people had been moved to hotels as of Monday. Currently, the Willie Ware Rec Center on Main Street is being used as a quarantine center for virus-stricken homeless persons. City officials had originally planned to close Hartford's overnight warm-up center for the homeless at the former Milner School on Vine Street this week, but it will remain open as an auxiliary shelter to reduce movement among the homeless and the possible spread of infection. Asylum Hill Congregational Church has come forward to serve as another overflow shelter for those persons who need shelter and Philips Metropolitan CME Church on Main Street may serve in the same capacity if conditions require. Volunteers from the State of Connecticut's Medical Reserve Corps have been requested to help Hartford care for the homeless during the Coronavirus crisis.

Hartford Public Schools launched its Distance Learning Program this past Monday. Over 90 percent of the school system's teachers have set up virtual classrooms. Those with questions on how best to access Distance Learning should go to HartfordSchools.org or call 860-695-8400.

As the number of Coronavirus victims continues to rise in Connecticut, Governor Ned Lamont has repeatedly stressed that people should "Stay Home, Stay Safe" and, if they do have to go out, to stay at least six-feet from other people in order to lessen the spread of the Coronavirus.

Many stores and other establishments that have remained open during the crisis are limiting the number of shoppers allowed inside at one time. The City of Hartford has also asked children and parents to stop using playscapes at city parks to reduce the spread of the infection.

Hartford City Hall

Hartford City Hall, 550 Main St., is closed except for the following services.

TAX COLLECTION: Monday through Friday, 8:15 am to 2:15 pm

TOWN & CITY CLERK/VITAL RECORDS: Monday through Friday, 8:15 am to 12:30 pm

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS: Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

For questions or further information, please call Hartford 311 (860-757-9311), Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm



Fresh Produce for Hartford Families

On Friday, March 27, personnel from Foodshare and Hartford Public Schools' Child Nutrition Services distributed some of the 10,000 pounds of produce that was donated to Foodshare by Fresh Point, a Hartford-based produce distributor, and Sysco, one of the world largest food distributors. The produce was given to Hartford families at three of Hartford Public School's 16 lunch distribution sites: Burr School on Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford Public High School (pictured) on Forest Street and SAND School on Main Street. Above are Melissa Washington and Myra Rodriguez; at right is Reggie Gonsalves. (Hart photos)



Hartford...Once Upon a Time



This week the Hartford News is running a special section on Hartford's West End neighborhood (see pages 2 & 3) so we thought our weekly jaunt down memory lane should take us to the commercial heart of that neighborhood, the corner of Whitney/South Whitney and Farmington Avenue. While most of the businesses have changed since the time this photo was taken, the neighborhood still has numerous restaurants, shops and services, many of which are still open in a limited fashion during the current Coronavirus crisis. Please turn to page 3 for a full list of businesses. (Photo courtesy of John Gale)



EXPLORE HARTFORD'S WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD

A Special Section Sponsored by the West End Civic Association

HARTFORD'S WEST END:

Working Together to Make It Through

A strong business community is vital to any urban neighborhood. The West End's diverse and unique mix of restaurants, shops, hair salons, professional offices and other businesses improve its quality of life, provide employment and enhance its distinctive character.

During the current Coronavirus crisis, supporting local businesses has become more important than ever. To that end, the West End Civic Association is proud to sponsor this special section. We hope you will be able to patronize and support as many of the businesses listed on the next page as you can. By working together, we can forge our way through this crisis and emerge stronger than ever!

Mo's Midtown

Biography of a Hartford Institution

BY JOHN GALE

Editor's Note: City Councilman John Gale was born, raised and raised a family in Hartford's West End neighborhood. So it's no surprise that he knows Mo's Midtown Restaurant almost as well as he knows his own home. We are grateful to him for penning this tale of the birth and life of one of Hartford's best loved eateries.

Whether you're from North, South or even West Hartford, you probably know that Mo's Midtown serves up one of the best breakfasts in town (and lunch is superb as well). But how did it get its name? For the answer to that, let's step back in time to the 1960s, when I was a kid.

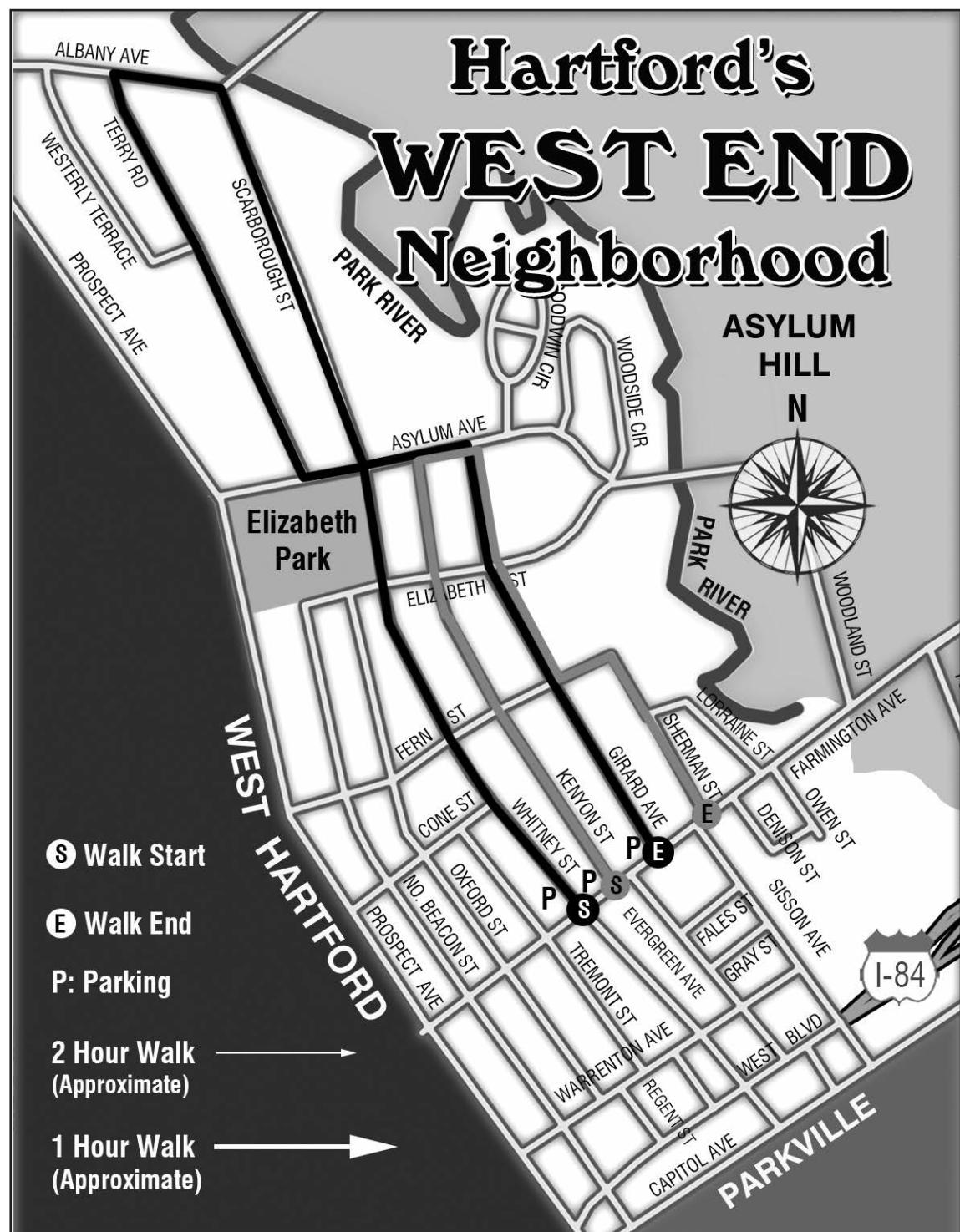
At that time, the building now occupied by CVS Pharmacy at the corner of Farmington Avenue and Whitney Street was home to five different businesses (plus one in the back). From east to west there was at some point or another:

1. Connecticut Bank & Trust (with a drive thru window on the Whitney Street side),

2. Fashion Flair (the hairdresser shop now on Whitney by way of Farmington and Prospect),
3. Gourson's Midtown Drug (which eventually was sold and became Dougherty Drug). I think Gourson choose the "Midtown" name because of the location mid-way between downtown and West Hartford center.
4. Marie's Gift Shop (where my father had stamp machines from which you could buy postage stamps to mail the cards you bought), and
5. Em's Bake Shop, a satellite shop of Em's Bakery on Albany Avenue.

Of course, underneath all was and still is a bowling alley, then called the Farmington Avenue Lanes.

All of the kids in the neighborhood (and parents too for all I know) referred to the drug store as The Midtown or just "The Mid." While the storefront facing Farmington Avenue was no wider than the other establishments, the



WALK THE WEST END!

Walking anywhere in the West End is an enjoyable experience. Free parking is indicated by a P on the map. Mo's Midtown and Tangier's have bathroom facilities. Here are two suggested self-guided walks to get you started. But feel free to go wherever you like, there's something beautiful around every corner.

Two Hour (approximate) Walk: Start from the corner of Farmington Avenue and Kenyon Street and head north. This walk will take you past the home of Pulitzer Prize Winning poet Wallace Stevens on Terry Road and Chick Austin's famous "Cardboard House" on Scarborough Street.

One Hour Tour: Start from the corner of Farmington Avenue and Kenyon Street. This tour includes many architectural gems, including the Neo-Gothic of UCONN Law School and the magnificently modernist Hartford Seminary.

And of course, remember to keep your social distance from one another.

Mid occupied most of the building. Inside the Mid was:

- a. A package store with beer, wine and hard liquor rung up at the main cash register
- b. A post office branch
- c. A luncheonette complete with counter service, several booths, small countertop juke boxes, cherry cokes and French fries – a teenagers delight!
- d. A functioning back door, so you could easily enter from the parking lot.

I could go on about who worked where, the romances, the crimes, etc. but this is about Mo's, so . . .

The luncheonette was operated by Steve Arre, a neighbor who lived on South Whitney (whose beautiful daughters, Stephanie and Gail, worked the counter). When CVS

2020 WECA Calendar

Dates & events are subject to change throughout the year

May: Monthly Meeting • N Farmington Walking Tour • West End Monthly Clean -Up

June: Monthly Meeting • Noah Webster Graduation • West End Monthly Clean-Up Farmers Market • Grants Committee Meeting • Movies In The Park • Officer Elections • Sector Rep Elections

July: West End Monthly Clean-Up • Farmers Market • Movies In The Park

August: West End Monthly Clean-Up • Farmers Market • Movies In The Park • New This Year! Black Tie Cocktail Party

September: Monthly Meeting • West End Monthly Clean-Up • Porchfest • S Farmington Walking Tour Farmers Market

October: Monthly Meeting • Halloween Event

November: Monthly Meeting • UMC T-Day Dinner

December: Monthly Meeting • Community Health Fair • Holiday Party

Continued on page 7

EXPLORE HARTFORD'S WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD

A Special Section Sponsored by the West End Civic Association



West End Businesses: Retail & Restaurants

Many essential West End businesses are continuing to serve the public during the ongoing Coronavirus crisis. Social distancing regulations must be followed inside and outside the business. All food from restaurants must be picked up or delivered; there is NO SIT-DOWN DINING at any restaurant. Please remember this is a fluid situation and information changes from day to day. Please call ahead to check the businesses' current situation. NOTE: We have made every attempt to make this list as complete and accurate as possible. If you have different or additional information, please call The Hartford News at 860-296-6128 or email to hartfordnews@aol.com. We are planning to run the list again in our April 16th edition.

CURRENTLY OPEN

Amigo Market

527 Farmington Ave, (860) 232-3963
Open Mon-Sat, 8 am-9 pm; Sunday, 9 am-9 pm.
Groceries, paper products, sandwiches, dairy, etc.

Arrow Pharmacy

500 Farmington Ave, (860) 522-9289
arrowxcenter.com
Hours Mon - Fri: 9 AM – 6 PM Saturday: 9 AM – 2 PM Sunday: Closed. Order by phone or online; pick up at drive-through window on side of building or call for curbside pick-up. Store area closed.

Bank of America

550 Farmington Ave, (860) 570-1780
Mon-Fri: 10 am-4 pm; Sat: 9 am - 12 pm, Sun, closed. Please maintain social distancing restriction while in bank.

Burger King

524 Farmington Ave, (860) 523-0220
locations.bk.com/ct/hartford/524-farmington-ave.html
Mon-Sat, 7 am - 10 pm; Sun: 8 am - 10 pm.
Dining area closed. Take-out only.
Fast food burgers, sandwiches, fries, etc.

China House Restaurant

498 Farmington Ave, (860) 523-5830
hartfordchinahouse.com
Hours: Sunn - Wed: 11 am - 11 pm; Thurs - Sat: 11 am - 12 am. Dekiveries only, please call. No take-out or dining in. Wide variety of Chinese-style dinners, lunches, appetizers, etc.

Christina Grocery

227 Sisson Ave, (860) 232-0264
facebook.com/pages/Christinas-Grocery/147518468610367
Taking orders at the door. 7 days, 8 am - 10 pm

City Pizza

498 Farmington Ave, (860) 236-2616
Citypizzahartford.com Email:abulait@yahoo.com
Open: Mon-Sat. 11 am-11 pm; Sun. 12 pm -11 pm. Pizza, grinders, salads, soups and more.

Connecticut State Check Cashing

455 Farmington Ave, (860) 232-7226
Mon- Weds: 8:30am - 6:00pm; Thur & Fri, 8:30am - 6:15pm; Sat: 8:30am - 3:30pm; Closed Sunday. Check cashing

CVS Pharmacy

566 Farmington Ave, 860-233-9673
Store Hours: Mon-Fri: 7:00 am to 8:00 pm; Sat & Sun: 8 am - 8 pm. Pharmacy Hours: Mon-Fri: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm; Sat: 9 am - 6 pm; Sun: 10 am-6 pm. Prescriptions, groceries, household products, toiletries, healthcare products, cosmetics, greeting cards and more.

Farmington Avenue Wine & Spirits

500 Farmington Ave, (860) 233-0626
www.facebook.com/FAWS500
Mon-Thu: 11 am-8pm; Fri & Sat, 10 am - 10 pm, Sun 10 am - 6pmSun: 11 am- 3pm.
Wide selecton of wines, beers and liquors.

FedEx Office

544 Farmington Ave, (860) 233-8245
local.fedex.com/en-us/ct/hartford/office-0184/
Hours: M-f, 9 am-6pm, Sat, 10am-6pm
Open with limited services and hours. Shipping and self-service printing are available at this store. Due to social distancing computer rental stations are currently not available.

Hartford Flavor Company

30 Arbor St, (860) 338-1642
tom@hartfordflavor.com
Weekdays, 12-5pm; Weekends, 11am-4pm.
Hand Sanitizer & Wild Moon Liqueurs

Ichiban Japanese & Korean Restaurant

530 Farmington Ave, (860)-236-5599
ichibanhartford.com
Take-out and delivery only. 11:30 am - 8:30 pm. Fine Japanese and Korian cuisine. Famous for its sushi.

Kentucky Fried Chicken

501 Farmington Ave, (860) 232-9566
locations.kfc.com/ct/hartford/501-farmington-avenue. Hours: 7 days, 11 am - 10 pm; Fri & Sat, 11 am - 10 pm; Dining Room and drive-thru closed. Take-out only.

Mobil Hartford Mart

519 Farmington Ave, 860-232-4136
exxon.com/en/find-station/200311206
Open 24 Hours; gas, food & drinks, ATM

Monte Alban Restaurant

531 Farmington Ave, 860-523-7423
Email: info@montealbanhartford.com
montealbanhartford.com
Delivery only, dine-in closed. Open 7 days, 10 am - 8 pm. Authentic Mexican food.

Mo's Midtown

25 Whitney St, (860) 236-7741
Breakfast & Lunch. 7:00 am - 2:30 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/Mos-Midtown-Restaurant-113438688688899/>
Pick-up only. Call ahead and place your order.

Sam's Food Stores

472 Farmington Ave, 860-236-2472
akhter12345@gmail.com
Gas, Lotto, frozen food, dairy, snacks, groceries, auto supplies, cigarettes, etc.

Sisson Avenue Pizza

479 Farmington Ave, (860) 236-6100
Order online: menupages.com/sisson-ave-pizza/495-farmington-ave-hartford

Sisson Supermarket

261 Sisson Ave, (860) 236-3366
Open 7 days, 8 am - 8 pm. Hispanic and American hot and cold foods, groceries, cleaning products, dairy and more.

Subway

471 Farmington Ave, (860) 232-5429
order.subway.com/en-US/restaurant/2071/menu
Open 24 hours. Take-out only.

Tangiers International Market

550 Farmington Ave, 860-233-8168
tangiersmarket.com
NOW DELIVERING, Fresh prepared foods, falafel, gyros, hummus, tabouli, kebabs, baba ghanoush, PLUS Groceries: rice, grains, oils, teas, honey & more.

Wash Tub Laundry

545 Farmington Ave, (860) 523-1394
facebook.com/The-Wash-Tub-Laundromat-116000245130075/

Xpresso787

494-A Farmington Ave, (860) 920-8581
Email: xpresso787@gmail.com. Open Mon-Sat, 7am-5pm; closed Sunday. Sandwiches and wraps, San Juan cafee Ice Lattes & Smoothies

TEMPORARILY CLOSED

China King Restaurant

259 Sisson Ave, (860) 236-6600
chinakinghartford.com
Check website for updates.

Fiddleheads Café

533 Farmington Ave, (860) 937-2566
facebook.com/FiddleheadsCafeHartford
Check Facebook for updates.

Half Door

270 Sisson Ave, (860) 232-7827
thehalfdoor.com, info@thehalfdoor.com
Check website for updates.

Metro Cafe

580 Farmington Ave, 860-231-7868
metrocafehartford.com,

South Whitney Pizza

264 South Whitney St, (860) 232-7860
mysouthwhitneypizza.com
Closed this week.

Tisane's Coffee & Tea

537 Farmington Ave, (860) 523-5417
info@mytisane.com; mytisane.com
Check website for updates.

Wing•Stop

550 Farmington Ave, (860) 216-3936
wingstop.com/connecticut/hartford/wingstop-868-hartford-ct-06105
Temporarily closed until further notice.

West End Businesses: Professional Services

Many doctors, lawyers, hair stylists and other professionals have their businesses in the West End. While most of their physical locations are closed, many are still accepting private appointments. Please call or email first to find out what is available. NOTE: We have made every attempt to make this list as complete and accurate as possible. If you have different or additional information, please call The Hartford News at 860-296-6128 or email to hartfordnews@aol.com. We are planning to run the list again in our April 16th edition.

Columbia Dental

621 Farmington Ave, (860) 233-9990
hartford@www.columbiadental.com
columbiadental.com

Beckett Law, LLC

543 Prospect Ave, 860-236-1111
beckettlawllc.com
TheFrontDesk@Beckett-Law.com
Estate Planning, Probate & Bankruptcy Services

DeVars Phillips Florist

242 Sisson Ave, (860) 523-1235
www.devars-phillipsflorist.com/
Temporarily closed due to the health emergency.

Farmington Avenue Dental Care

232 Farmington Ave, (860) 232-9002
farmingtonavedentalcare.com
Available for emergency dental care of new and existing patients only. Please call the office and press 1.

Fashion Flair Hair Salon

21 Whitney St, (860) 523-5935
By appointment only.

Global Physical Therapy

580 Farmington Ave, Suite #101
(860) 233-2222
global-pt.com.

H&R Block

593 Farmington Ave, 860-236-1981
hrblock.com/local-tax-offices/connecticut/hartford/593-farmington-ave/7670

Imagineers

635 Farmington Avenue, (860) 768-3300
imagineersllc.com

JT Ghamo Formal Wear

137 Sisson Ave, (860) 232-4405

jtghamo.com/
Open by appointment only until further notice.
Please leave a message with any questions and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

LA Nails

23 Whitney St, (860) 233-7443
facebook.com/pages/L-A-Nails/117705101622642
Call for appointment

Law Offices of Conway, Stoughton, Berman, Mickelson, Dembe

641 Farmington Ave, (860) 523-8000
conwaystoughton.com/

Nails By The Corner

494 Farmington Ave, (860) 231-0580
facebook.com/pages/Nails-by-The-Corner/160645990625336

Call for apointment

R&W McNair, LLC

68 Girard Ave, 860-989-4293
Home Improvement service

Rosetta Hair Styles

494 Farmington Avenue
(860) 523-8259
rosetta-hair-styles.business.site
Appointments only.

SHE Medical Associates



News & Views



HARTFORD HAS IT



ASYLUM HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
From the
Executive Director
BY DAVID MACDONALD

The Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association's mission is to empower and connect residents and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. Like you, we are navigating the uncharted waters of the COVID-19 pandemic. Amidst all this uncertainty, however, some things are known—namely, that Hartford is home to committed community leaders, passionate non-profits, and generous business partners. In our city, we will work together to meet this crisis with compassion, confidence and creativity.

At AHNA, we have made immediate program adjustments to offer virtual online solutions for our current Committee meetings and new upcoming project meetings. Our Board of Directors has met via video conferencing to ensure we can conduct the business necessary for continued operations. We will communicate with our residents primarily through email and Facebook. AHNA has decided to cancel our April 6th General Meeting to keep our residents and staff as safe as possible and comply with Governor Lamont's Stay Home order. We will plan to use video streaming to conduct our May General Meeting if the Stay Home order is still in place. If you need to receive our email updates and video meeting announcements, please email me at exdir@asylumhill.org. Follow our Facebook page at Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association for updates about upcoming project meetings, our upcoming May General meeting to be held via video stream and how to participate, announcements about services available to residents in need, etc. Those details and updates will be shared in the days to come, but be assured that our primary concern at this moment is for the health and well-being of our residents and those in our community feeling most vulnerable right now.

AHNA staff is working remotely to help keep everyone safe. We will respond to your inquiries and needs as soon as possible, so continue to reach out to us in the days, weeks, and months ahead. Above all, stay safe and help care for others whenever and wherever you can.

Saint Francis Hospital has been visibly busy over the last several weeks dealing with the escalating issue that is COVID-19. Especially here in Asylum Hill, but also throughout the region they are a primary line of defense in dealing with this pandemic. People looking to get tested are coming from the surrounding towns to get tested.

The drive-thru testing tents and the Malta House truck are open from 9:00am seven days a week in front of the Gengras Building. Anyone seeking a test is required to have a Doctor's prescription and a photo ID. Results from each test will be sent to the prescribing physicians where patients can learn from them, usually in less than a week.

Meanwhile on the other side of the campus, the COVID Field Hospital is going up in the parking area of the O'Connell Emergency Entrance, and will be functional by the time this is being read. It will only be used as conditions necessitate.

Additionally, free hot or cold lunches and packed breakfasts were originally being given out

EXPLORING ASYLUM HILL

COVID-19 responses in Asylum Hill



daily to all school-age children up to 18 years old by the Hartford Board of Ed at the Asylum Hill Boys & Girls Club at 170 Sigourney St. Then, beginning on the 23rd, they moved the Asylum Hill location to Hartford Public High School, and it is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

Also, this past week Chromebooks were being given out to enable e-learning, but as of 10:00 am last Friday, the entire supply in the district was distributed. Technology-free learning

(work-sheets and other printed materials) will continue to be made available. More information is available at <https://www.hartfordschools.org/distancelearning/>

In terms of the soup kitchens and other food distribution, Food Share continues to provide groceries according to their regular schedule at the rear parking lot of 60 Gillett working with the Asylum Hill Family Center, and Grace Lutheran Church is giving all who come by a bag of cooked food, salad dessert and bread each Friday in lieu of the Gathering.



SAY 'THANK YOU' TO OUR FIRST RESPONDERS AND HELP OUR EMPLOYEES AT THE SAME TIME!

During these very difficult times, we want to help you thank someone special. When you buy a gift card for a First Responder or those on the front lines from V's Trattoria or Vito's to go Café, we will give you one of the same value. The money raised for this effort will go directly to pay our employees, without whom, we'd have nothing.

Go online to: <https://swipeit.com/product/485/vitos>. Under "Step One: Delivery Options," you must choose VIRTUAL CARD and continue from there.

**WE HAVE SEEN OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THIS OFFER!!
LET'S KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING FOR THE NEXT WEEK!!**

AND TAKE THE TIME TODAY TO:

THANK A PARAMEDIC • THANK A NURSE • THANK A TRUCK DRIVER
THANK A PHYSICIAN • THANK A SOCIAL WORKER • THANK A GROCERY STORE CLERK
THANK A FARMER • THANK A SANITATION WORKER • THANK A NEIGHBOR
THANK A HOSPITALITY WORKER

DON'T FORGET, WE ARE OPEN FOR TAKE OUT!

280 Trumbull Street • Downtown Hartford • (860) 904-5453 • vstrattoria.com

AH Then & Now – an Opportunity

In these days of hour-to-hour change, when a world-wide pandemic has turned nearly everyone's life upside down, it seems appropriate to seek a shorter time frame for "Then & Now". So this month we're looking at a modest, encouraging change that we might be able to replicate, even in these restricted times. Cleaning up trash is a practice that's compatible with social distancing, and most of that trash predates the COVID-19 pandemic and is almost certainly free of that pathogen. All one needs is a large plastic trash bag, and nitrile gloves, which can be the last thing thrown in the bag. The photos above and below are of 200 Sigourney St., one of the worst in the neighborhood. For other locations, if you'd like to try this yourself, go to Volunteer of the Month.



Volunteer (Opportunities) of the Month

As was suggested in Asylum Hill Then & Now, there are a few activities that are still compatible with all the restrictions of COVID 19. It seems valuable to try to focus on what we can do. Social distancing, 6 feet apart, puts a real crimp in the way most of us behave, especially when we're volunteering to help others.

However, one thing that it seems could still be done by anyone willing, that's still allowed, at least for now, and benefits us all, is picking up litter. It only involves taking a walk, bringing along a plastic bag of appropriate size and a pair of nitrile gloves, and then picking up the litter that you find. If you can engage a neighbor or two to join you, it can still be somewhat social while maintaining the necessary distance apart.

Also, If you're socially media inclined as well, you can take a before and after photo just like in Asylum Hill Then & Now, and post them on the Asylum Hill Living Facebook group to inspire others.

In researching for this column, I made a tour of the neighborhood, and I'm pleased to report that there seems to be a lot less litter than I'm used to seeing. Not none, and not an acceptable level, but encouraging. We can do this.

Not surprisingly, the worst areas are around the stores, Sargeant St at Woodland, Ashley from Huntington to May and near the shops on Farmington Ave.

Most of the remaining locations are less challenging but just as needing attention, and it's likely that wherever you live, there'll be at least

a small shopping bag's worth a short walk from your home.

If you're really up for a challenge, you can stop by Sargeant St from May to Woodland, or 248 Collins St at the corner of May St, or S. Marshall at the rear of 70 Forest St as well as the area around 28 Gillett. And of course there's always Sigourney Square Park.

Do your own and post before and after photos on Asylum Hill Living page on Facebook. However, if litter pickup isn't your thing, but you're still interested in being helpful, FoodShare needs volunteers in the area to help with distributing bags of food to their clients in the area. For details on that, go to: <https://foodshare.volunteerhub.com/?scrollToDate=3%2F27%2F2020&bookmarkEventId=11761668#eid11761668>



ASYLUM HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

From the House
BY MATTHEW RITTER

Capitol Update on COVID-19

The corona virus (COVID-19) is impacting every facet of life in Hartford. From schools, to families, to businesses – we are all impacted in a very real way. As we continue to navigate this new public health reality, please contact me at Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov, or by phone at (860)240-8489, if you have any questions or concerns.

Our schools are offering students hot and cold food options for pick-up at lunchtime.

A printable map of meal locations is available online at www.hartfordschools.org/understanding-coronavirus.

CT Small businesses and nonprofits are eligible for disaster relief loans of up to \$2 million from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Small businesses and nonprofits can learn more and apply for financial assistance at www.sba.gov/disaster or call the SBA at 1-800-659-2955.

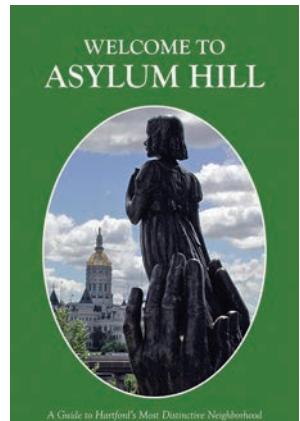
You can also call the state Department of Economic and Community Development at 860-500-2333 to learn more about the SBA program and other state programs that may be able to lend a hand including the new Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan Program. The programs will make \$25 million available to Connecticut businesses and nonprofits that have 100 or fewer employees to assist with cash flow.

Small businesses and nonprofits can now apply for one-year, no-interest loans of up to \$75,000 under the program administered by the state's Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

Other COVID-19 news:

- Drive-through COVID-19 testing is available. Hartford Healthcare has opened its drive-through testing center at 560 Hudson Street and St. Francis Hospital has a location at 1000 Asylum Street...patients with symptoms and possible exposure can be tested without leaving their vehicles.
- The deadline for filing state and federal personal income tax returns has been extended from April 15 to July 15, 2020.
- Stop & Shop is offering special shopping hours for its customers over 60. From 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., shoppers 60-plus will have sole access to the store.

For the most up to date info on coronavirus visit the state's COVID-19 hub at ct.gov/coronavirus.



New Asylum Hill Guide Being Printed

The collaboration between AHNA and Hartford Publications that began last summer, with the generous support of The Hartford, is finally being completed. The paper edition is being printed now, and will hopefully be available for early distribution along with this April edition of the print News & Views.

The digital edition is available on the AHNA website www.asylumhill.org

This is the first neighborhood guide to be printed in Asylum Hill since the 1992 edition, and much of the credit should go to Mike McGarry, a long time Asylum Hill resident and longtime Hartford News columnist and mainstay. In fact, Mike was largely responsible for the earlier edition.

Much has changed in the intervening decades, and comparing the two might make an interesting subject for an Asylum Hill Then & Now column or two going forward. The edition features a brief history of AHNA that fills in much of the time since the previous guidebook as well as a six-page history of Asylum Hill.

The middle of the guide features a map of Asylum Hill with 27 points of interest identified, followed by a double page plan of intended improvements to Saint

Joseph Cathedral campus.

Following that is a page of church listings that includes a range from Saint Joseph Cathedral, arguably the largest, to International Tabernacle of Prayer that rents space at 100 Farmington Ave and is the most recent addition to the neighborhood.

Four pages of schools and nonprofit service organizations follow, everything from Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center to K La Rue Educational Arts in Motion.

Of course there are lots of ads and it's again interesting to see those institutions that are in both and the new ones that have come about since the earlier edition was published.

One of the distinct advantages of this newer edition is of course the digital edition, something that wasn't really available in '92. It allows us to keep this edition current with the changes that will inevitably occur going forward. If you can't get your hands on a print edition right away, check out the digital edition.

It's a great way to spend a few minutes while you're sheltered in place.

A March Recap

The old adage about March, lions and lambs got turned on its head this year. The month began with an AHNA meeting on March 2nd that hosted the first of the Hartford Plan of Conservation and Development called Hartford 2035. What was to be a series of six meetings got cut short to only two.

On March 8th, tragedy struck on Ashley St when the house at 29 Ashley owned by Mr. Delille caught fire. Fortunately no one was injured, but the damage is extensive, and the owner is still waiting for the State Fire Marshal to complete the necessary inspection before any cleanup work can begin.

On March 14th, The Urban League hosted the Census 2020 Pancake breakfast to encourage neighbors to come and fill out census forms. It seemed pretty successful, but turned out to be one of the last gatherings of the month.

The following Monday the Hartford Schools were

closed and children were coming to the Boys & Girls Club to pick up a lunch for the afternoon, and a breakfast for the following morning. Later, instructional material was added and eventually that program was moved to Hartford Public High School and Chromebooks were also distributed until the end of the week when they ran out.

There are several encouraging developments ongoing in Asylum Hill, while we are all sheltering in place, and we hope to be able to feature each of them in upcoming issues of the News & Views. The small grocery store at 180 Ashley that has been closed for about a year is now newly renovated and re-opening under a new owner. The six family building at 314-316 Sargeant St has a promising new owner looking to fix it up and bring it back into service as productive rental housing. NINA continues work on the first two homes on Hawthorn St, scheduled for completion this year.

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LONG DISTANCE...

What – or who –are we missing the most?

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

My younger son and his fiancée who live in southern Maine are expecting a baby, due in about 10 weeks. They've been co-parenting her 6 year-old daughter for the past two years, and now a little boy—his first child and my newest grandson—is headed our way. They've been eager to have me spend time with them right after the birth, and I happily looked forward to something so special. About three weeks ago I started to worry about the delivery, and put this question to my son: Have you looked into the possibility of having a home birth? No, they're all set with Maine Medical Center hospital in

Portland, which normally would be just fine. But now, will he be allowed to be present in the delivery room? Will the hospital environment be safe for all of them, even for 24-48 hours? And will I be able to see and hold that infant—talk, sing, and read to him—before he starts walking? My older son and his family live in Colorado, and their two children are turning 12 and 14. I miss them terribly, but what weighs on my mind the most is that both sons, with strong and dedicated work ethics and families to support, are among the massive numbers of people who have lost their major source of income. I

worry more for them and their futures than I do for my own health and well-being. I miss being that mom who can be counted on to step in and help make things right; to be there for her children.

So I decided to put it out there and asked people to tell me what one thing they've missed the most due to social distancing. My good friend Donna's answer was all-encompassing: "The freedom to do what I want, when I want, and how I want to." Others were more specific, such as my niece Marlo who lives in Staten Island, NY and works as a State Marshall; the courts are now closed. "I miss commuting to work and seeing all the same people—even those I don't know—on the ferry every morning." Kate, a Hartford-based professional dog-walker, dearly misses her charges now that their owners are home all day. Louise, a talented chef and generous hostess said she most misses "...cooking for a crowd at my house." Several adult children of elderly parents are agonizing about not being able to be present in their lives: "I miss hugging my mom, and today's her birthday" said one. In fact physical touch—hugging, shaking hands, kissing—was the most mentioned loss. John, who's been able to continue his work from home, has

actually begun to miss meetings, because "Zoom teleconferencing doesn't cut it."

Visits to the barber shop, the hair and nail salons, and the gym have been put on hold; a calming and pleasant self-care routine that's been hard for some people. Kelly speaks for many when she says she most misses "A consistent routine and a paycheck." Others mourn access to bars, date nights, malls, dojos, and fencing class. Visits with grandchildren and the ability to travel to see them are hard for so many to accept, as is merely "hanging out with my friends". One person summed up his feelings of loss in a single word: options. Finally, Carol's words will hit home with a lot of us in these uncertain times, the realization that "Whatever illusion I had that the world had safe corners has been swept away."

To everyone: Find the love, the good, the hope wherever and whenever you can. Small things can mean a lot. Don't worry about shedding a few tears or becoming emotional during this time; you're only human. And please! Find ways to laugh—long and loud and hard—whenever you can. It's so good for the soul. Take care, follow cautions and restrictions, play it safe, and know that we're all in this together.

CRT Food Resources for Adults

MEALS ON WHEELS provides food for homebound senior citizens experiencing food insecurity. The service is available through the Community Renewal Team for residents of Hartford, Tolland and Middlesex counties. A \$2.50 donation per meal is suggested to defray cost. To qualify, individuals need to be age 60 and over, and must be medically home-bound with a doctor's statement that the individual is unable to leave his or her home. Those who are approved will have meals delivered weekdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Call 860-560-5848 for more information.

SENIOR COMMUNITY CAFES: For non-homebound seniors, the Community Renewal Team (CRT) operates Senior Community Cafes in dozens of towns. Call first to make sure the cafe is still open.

- **Parkville Senior Center:** 11 New Park Avenue, Hartford, (860) 232-7867 (Mon - Fri)
- **Smith Towers:** 80 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, (860) 723-8448 (Mon - Fri)
- **Hispanic Senior Center:** 45 Wadsworth Street, Hartford, (860) 527-1124 (Mon - Fri)

To check on the availability of CRT programs and services during this Coronavirus crisis. It is here: <https://covid19.crtct.org/>

West End Businesses

Continued from page 3

Signature Smiles

550 Farmington Ave., Suite B,
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signaturesmilesct.com

West End Eye Care

553 Farmington Ave, (860) 236-5831
Doctors@WestEndEyeCare.com
<https://www.westendeyecare.com/>
West End Eye Care will be closed for all routine/wellness eye examinations until April 3rd 2020. We will be continuously reassessing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will keep all our patients updated on any changes to our available services and office hours. We will remain OPEN for OCULAR EMERGENCIES including but not limited to: trauma/eye injuries, sudden loss in vision, acute red eye, painful eye/eyelid, new flashes/floater, pain with contact lenses. We will still be answering and returning phone calls during this peri-

od to ensure all our patients have the medications they need. You can also request refills of your medications though your pharmacy who will contact us electronically to refill prescriptions. If you are out of contact lenses—call our office. We can often order a replacement supply over the phone and ship it directly to your house. If you have lost or broken your glasses purchased through us—call our office. We can often order a replacement pair remotely.

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El Informativo Latino

Hartford HealthCare: 82 personas se hicieron la prueba para COVID-19 en el segundo día del "drive-through"

El primer centro, ubicado en el Hospital de Hartford, atendió a 25 pacientes el primer día. El volumen aumentó dramáticamente en su segundo día hoy martes.

Hartford HealthCare abrió un centro de pruebas el lunes en un esfuerzo por controlar los diagnósticos de coronavirus en Connecticut. El primer centro, ubicado en el Hospital de Hartford, atendió a 25

pacientes el primer día. 34 se habían registrado, según funcionarios del hospital. Según un comunicado, el volumen aumentó dramáticamente en su segundo día el martes con 82 pacientes reservados para la prueba.

¿Cómo son las pruebas? Los pacientes se reúnen con un equipo de enfermeras, médicos, terapeutas respiratorios y personal auxiliar del CESI. Están vestidos con batas, una

bata, una máscara N95, un protector facial y guantes. Luego, los pacientes se ponen una máscara facial propia; y se reclinan en su auto. Las muestras se obtienen de la fosa nasal del paciente: una para COVID-19 y otra para la gripe;

Los funcionarios de Heath dicen que el proceso de prueba total demora aproximadamente tres minutos de principio a fin. Las muestras de los pacientes se colocan en refrigeración, se envían al laboratorio para su análisis y recibirán sus resultados a través de MyChart o por teléfono dentro de cuatro días.

Antes de partir, se les recuerda que se autoaislen y se les dan instrucciones de seguimiento sobre cómo hacerlo de manera efectiva.

"La mayoría de las personas apreciaban el servicio, pero las emociones eran altas, sin duda", dijo Steve Donahue. "Es un momento único para todos nosotros. Cualquier cosa que podamos hacer para detener esta propagación es importante".

Los funcionarios dicen que para que un paciente sea examinado, deben tener una referencia de un proveedor a través de Hartford HealthCare Medical Group o una orden a través de una visita de salud virtual realizada por un médico en el Centro de Comando Clínico de Hartford HealthCare.

Los sitios de prueba COVID-19 de Hartford HealthCare se abrirán más adelante esta semana en Bridgeport, Meriden, Norwich y Torrington.

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Mo's Midtown

Continued from page 2

bought the building, all tenants were booted out (except for the bowling alley) and the building was reconfigured for CVS's needs.

CBT moved across the street; Em's and Marie's folded; Fashion Flair went to the Concord Drug building at Prospect and Farmington in West Hartford (another town, another story) and Steve Arre moved the luncheonette to the building behind the new CVS, next to Shulman's Paints and Dandee Cleaners.

The luncheonette was now its own business in its own space. It was called Steve's. Arre operated it several years before selling to one of his staff, Claudia, who imaginatively renamed the place "Claudia's." Claudia then sold the business to Kathy, a neighborhood girl who had married Buddy Sacerdote, a neighborhood boy who worked at the Shell Station for Sonny Schiavone. Kathy lost the business; and in the mid 1980s, the lights went out; and no new tenant seemed on the horizon.

When Kathy's shuttered, my two

neighbors Brent Harold and Ray Seligson were apoplectic. They had been regulars at all the diner's iterations and were suffering severe withdrawal.

In the backyards of our homes on Sherman Street, they barraged me with "how we could save Kathy's." I didn't quite understand the "we" part since I had three young children, a fourth on the way, and no time or money to eat out. Ultimately they sucked me in, and together we negotiated to purchase the business and enter into a lease with the owners of the property, the Neiditz family.

Brent, an erstwhile professor and carpenter, did all the interior remodeling, which included removing paneling to expose the brick wall, putting wainscoting on the back wall and on the cashier's station he built.

We bought new booths and countertops, replaced some kitchen equipment, hired a manager (the sister of a good friend, also from Sherman Street), created a menu (hours of testing and argument—the blueberry muffin debate was epic) and were ready to go with every-

thing except the NAME.

I put it out there that I didn't care what name we choose, but I wanted the word Midtown in there, as a reminder of "The Mid." Brent, our literary genius, came up with Mo as the fictional everyman who ran the diner. We loved the alliteration, and thus was born "Mo's Midtown."

Mo's hit the ground with a flair. We put an ever-changing assortment of neighborhood artists' work on the walls. People loved the atmosphere and the food was good old diner food, and lots of it!

We required that home fries be made from baked potatoes; soups were made by my wife Tracy.

In time, John Tolo introduced a dinner menu, short-lived but great. He paired up with "Louisiana Lenny" and started introducing Hartford to great Cajun cuisine.

In the end, however, we could not sustain. Mo's won awards from the *Hartford Advocate* for Best Breakfast in Hartford, but to survive the business needed an owner operator, which none of us were.

So we put it up for sale, and Theresa Baluka purchased the business. She was just what the doctor

ordered. Mo's was, is and hopefully always will be a "mom-and-pop" business and Theresa was the best mom a business could have.

Teresa had two husbands, both named Lester. The first she married in Mo's. I performed the ceremony (among other hats, I'm a Justice of the Peace). This was actually the second Mo's wedding I'd done, the first was the marriage of John Tolo and Ana. Theresa's first Lester died suddenly, and she and the second Lester got burned out.

She had kept the entire Mo's concept, right down to Big Mo and the name. She had added a Polish dish or two to the menu, but otherwise Mo's had soldiered on. Teresa sold to Stanley Nowak and his then wife, Ewa. Stanley then became "Mo" and has continued running the restaurant to this day.

Like Theresa, Stan knew a good thing when he saw it and made no major changes to the format, décor or menu.

Stanley probably has more than 20 years in at this point. He has updated as necessary: new booths, stools, painting, flooring, etc.; but the essence remains.

Mo's is the consummate neighborhood deli, where tradespeople and politicians stop in for breakfast, parents chill after dropping kids at school, cops and firefighters grab a cup of joe and local business people drop in for lunch.

While the Midtown was the gathering place of my youth, Mo's has become the gathering place for the West End of the 21st century. And Stanley keeps it coming: he has probably won more awards for Best Breakfast than any other establishment in Connecticut. He is the epitome of the family run small business. Over the years, all manner of his family members, friends and paisans have been employed as a springboard for some, to tide others over, as a career for a few – and then there is Stan the Man, as opinionated as the next, as friendly as necessary, but there every day with good wholesome food at reasonable prices in a place you can feel comfortable no matter who you are, our neighborhood constant. Who needs Cheers; we have Stan. We love you Stan.

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For Rent

3 bedrooms on 2nd floor. Newly renovated. Appliances included. W/D hook-up. Off-street parking. Section 8 welcome. Cold flat. Call 860-899-7545.

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66 Commonwealth Avenue, New Britain. 4 BRs, 2 bathrooms. Asking \$149,900.

71 Chelsey Road, East Hartford. Split-style. 3 BRs, 2 bathrooms, 2-car garage. Asking \$184,900.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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(20-00183)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated March 23, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such



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We truly thank you all for the continuous love and support during these difficult times. Our community is the heart of our business and we hold it in the highest regard.

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